

Games, Geeks, And Gadgets

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GAMES, GEEKS, AND GADGETS

? The first pocket calculators hit the market in Japan in 1970. The first American-made pocket-sized calculator was the Bowmar 901B. It sold for \$240 a unit!

? Before streaming there were DVDs, and before DVDs, there were video cassette recorder (VCR) tapes. But VCRs were challenged by Sony Betamax recorders and tapes until the former won the market share by the mid-1980s.

? Microsoft founder Bill Gates scored 1590 out of 1600 on the SAT. It got him into Harvard, but he dropped out after two years to do "other things."

? The predecessors to modern pinball machines can be traced back to the 1600s. The first coin-operated pinball machines began being placed in American bars and drugstores in the 1930s.

? The 1980 arcade game, Pac-Man, originally came out in Japan as Puck Man. The name was changed when it was realized how vandals could have fun with the work "Puck."

? The earliest version of the internet was the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET). It was started in 1969 as a special project of the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPA) of the US Defense Department.

? Starcade was a gameshow that was broadcast on the TBS network in the US from 1982 to 1983. It featured contestants, usually teenagers, playing current arcade games against each other for prizes.

? The video game Spacewar! Was developed in 1962 by programmer Steve Russell. It's important because it was the first video game available for home computers.

? If you're familiar with the video game Minecraft then you know, for many, it's much more than a game. That's probably why Minecraft is the top-selling game of all time, with more than 238 million units sold.

? Most of the world's computer-integrated circuit (IC) chips are made in semiconductor fabrication plants owned by Taiwan based companies. Taiwan companies accounted for more than 60% of the market share in 2020.

? Python was the most widely used computer language in 2021. It was first developed in 1991 by a Dutch programmer, Guido van Rossum.

? Lenovo was the top-selling computer brand in 2020, with 87 million units sold and 19% of the market share. Apple was second with 81.4 million units sold and 18% of the market.

? The abacus was the world's first calculator. Variations of the device were used as far back as the 3rd millennium BCE in Mesopotamia.

? A multiple arcade machine emulator (MAME) is software that emulates vintage arcade games. The software is legal in most countries and is also open source.

? A "killer app" is computer software that's deemed so cool or essential that people buy specific hardware just to run the application. The spreadsheet program VisiCalc for the Apple II is considered the first computer killer app.

? In 2000, the Windows Mobile phone was the first true smartphone to hit the market. The platform was declared "end of life" on January 14, 2020.

? A "binary digit," or bit, is the basic unit of information in computing. A "byte" is a unit that generally consists of 8 bits.